

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SULFUR IN JANUARY 2007

During the month, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 718,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. January 2007 production was 4% lower than that of December 2006 and 4% higher than that of January 2006. Shipments were 3% higher than those of December 2006. Producers' ending stocks for January 2007 were 182,000 t.

Import and export data for January 2007 were not available at the time of publication and will be published in the Sulfur in February 2007 Mineral Industry Surveys along with apparent

consumption. Imports of recovered sulfur for December 2006 were estimated to be 250,000 t; exports were 85,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for December 2006 were 109,000 t; exports were 32,000 t.

Significant adjustments have been made to the sulfur import data. Reports from the U.S. Census Bureau appear to underreport sulfur imports, especially material from Canada. The revised figures are based on Census information and data from personal communications with industry experts.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SULFUR STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production			Shipments, all sources	Ending stocks <sup>3</sup>
	Petroleum <sup>2</sup>	Natural gas	Total		
2005	6,940	1,850	8,790	8,770	XX
2006:					
January	572	118	690	682	162
February	513	116	628	635	152
March	544	121	665	669	145
April	546	124	670	652	163
May	591	123	714	705	164
June	586	99	685	697	149
July	600	119	719	695	172
August	618	122	740	726	184
September	597	112	710	726	168
October	594	127	720	692	196
November	573	124	698	690	203
December	624 <sup>r</sup>	122	746 <sup>r</sup>	723 <sup>r</sup>	221 <sup>r</sup>
Total	6,960	1,430	8,390	8,290	XX
2007, January <sup>p</sup>	590	127	718	744	182

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes a small quantity from coking operations.

<sup>3</sup>Subject to inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SULFUR<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Canada		Mexico		Venezuela		Total, all countries <sup>2</sup>	
	Quantity <sup>c</sup>	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity <sup>c</sup>	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity <sup>c</sup>	Value <sup>3</sup>
2005:								
January-December	1,970	33,500	427	18,600	409	16,800	2,820	70,500
December	185	4,360	34	1,890	41	2,180	261	8,500
2006:								
January	165	4,190	58	2,520	37	1,680	260	8,460
February	150	3,910	43	1,810	40	1,650	233	7,450
March	165	3,970	44	2,010	34	1,580	243	7,690
April	205	4,290	29	1,420	30	1,410	264	7,230
May	210	3,260	29	1,390	19	925	259	5,820
June	205	2,550	44	1,970	29	1,270	281	6,120
July	165	2,370	43	1,900	33	1,370	241	5,730
August	165	2,330	43	1,770	20	824	229	4,940
September	160	1,970	43	1,730	31	1,240	245	4,970
October	170	1,960	43	1,710	32	1,270	246	4,990
November	165	1,210	14	577	18	725	198	2,620
December	170	1,020	43	1,350	36	1,140	250	4,410
Total	2,100	33,000	476	20,100	359	15,100	2,950	70,400

<sup>c</sup>Estimated.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>May include other countries not listed.

<sup>3</sup>Declared customs valuation.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau data as adjusted by U.S. Geological Survey and PentaSul North America Sulphur Service.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SULFURIC ACID<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Canada			Mexico			Total, all countries <sup>2</sup>		
	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>3</sup>
2005:									
January-December	2,000	656	80,700	398	129	7,920	2,660	871	102,000
December	172	56	7,910	28	9	504	229	75	9,640
2006:									
January	194	63	7,800	16	5	444	244	80	9,030
February	161	53	6,550	23	7	416	201	66	7,670
March	198	65	7,760	19	6	454	255	83	9,050
April	207	68	7,910	16	5	400	234	77	9,100
May	207	68	7,840	13	4	307	229	75	8,320
June	189	62	7,030	2	1	56	208	68	7,860
July	181	59	6,290	7	2	157	228	74	6,900
August	212	69	7,330	22	7	624	245	80	8,070
September	178	58	6,850	23	8	557	201	66	7,490
October	93	30	4,650	19	6	464	122	40	5,320
November	93	31	5,440	21	7	512	154	50	6,740
December	65	21	3,710	18	6	713	109	36	5,530
Total	1,980	647	79,200	200	64	5,100	2,430	795	91,100

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>May include other countries not listed.

<sup>3</sup>Declared customs valuation.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Sulfur		Sulfuric acid		
	Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>2</sup>
2005:					
January-December	683	55,900	348	108	29,500
December	87	5,790	37	12	2,560
2006:					
January	55	4,430	14	4	1,400
February	15	1,900	38	12	2,400
March	68	4,710	23	8	2,000
April	11	1,270	19	6	1,600
May	19	2,090	17	5	1,400
June	141	8,790	11	4	1,370
July	79	4,540	18	6	2,030
August	15	2,380	37	12	2,280
September	15	1,540	11	4	1,320
October	84	4,910	20	6	1,730
November	48	2,980	9	3	1,040
December	85	4,250	32	10	3,270
Total	635	43,800	249	80	21,800

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Declared f.a.s. (free alongside ship) valuation.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. CONSUMPTION OF SULFUR<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Domestic sources <sup>2</sup>	Imports <sup>e</sup>	Consumption
2005:			
January-December	8,080	2,820	10,900
December	638	261	899
2006:			
January	627	260	887
February	620	233	853
March	601	243	844
April	641	264	905
May	686	259	945
June	556	281	837
July	616	241	857
August	711	229	940
September	711	245	956
October	608	246	854
November	642	198	840
December	638	250	888
Total	7,660	2,950	10,600

<sup>e</sup>Estimated.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Calculated as shipments minus exports.

TABLE 6  
RECOVERED SULFUR PRODUCED AND SHIPPED IN THE UNITED STATES,  
BY PAD (PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION FOR DEFENSE) DISTRICT

(Thousand metric tons)

District and source	January 2007 <sup>p</sup>		December 2006		January 2006	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:						
Petroleum and coke	23	23	19	18	17 <sup>r</sup>	17 <sup>r</sup>
Natural gas	1	1	7	7	1	1
Total	24	24	26	25	18 <sup>r</sup>	18 <sup>r</sup>
PAD 2:						
Petroleum and coke	88	88	86	85	86 <sup>r</sup>	86 <sup>r</sup>
Natural gas	3	3	3	4	3	4
Total	91	91	89	89	89 <sup>r</sup>	90 <sup>r</sup>
PAD 3: <sup>1</sup>						
Petroleum and coke	371	397	402	396	356	345
Natural gas	51	53	38	34	38 <sup>r</sup>	40 <sup>r</sup>
Total	422	450	440	430	394 <sup>r</sup>	385 <sup>r</sup>
PAD 4 and 5: <sup>2</sup>						
Petroleum and coke	108	110	118 <sup>r</sup>	106 <sup>r</sup>	113 <sup>r</sup>	108
Natural gas	72	71	73	73	76 <sup>r</sup>	81 <sup>r</sup>
California	86	88	97 <sup>r</sup>	86 <sup>r</sup>	91	86 <sup>r</sup>
Total	180	181	191	179	189	189 <sup>r</sup>
Grand total	718	744	746 <sup>r</sup>	723 <sup>r</sup>	690 <sup>r</sup>	682 <sup>r</sup>

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Includes the U.S. Virgin Islands.

<sup>2</sup>Quantities produced and shipped in California included in petroleum and natural gas. California total shown for information purposes only.

TABLE 7  
COMPARATIVE SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Million metric tons per year [annualized basis] and dollars per metric ton for period shown)

	2007	2006	
	January	December	Total
Production	8.45 <sup>p</sup>	8.78 <sup>r</sup>	8.38
Shipments	8.76 <sup>p</sup>	8.51 <sup>r</sup>	8.29
Exports of sulfur	NA	1.00	0.63 <sup>r</sup>
Imports of sulfur:			
Canada	NA	2.00	2.09 <sup>e</sup>
Mexico	NA	0.51	0.47
Venezuela	NA	0.42	0.36 <sup>e</sup>
Total <sup>2</sup>	NA	2.94	2.95 <sup>e</sup>
Exports of H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	NA	0.38	0.25
Imports of H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> :			
Canada	NA	0.77	1.98
Mexico	NA	0.21	0.20
Total <sup>2</sup>	NA	1.28	2.45
Consumption: <sup>3</sup>			
Domestic sources	NA	7.51	7.66
Imports	NA	2.94	2.95 <sup>e</sup>
Total	NA	10.45	10.61
Sulfur export values <sup>4</sup>	NA	50	69
Sulfur import values: <sup>4</sup>			
Canada	NA	6	16
Mexico	NA	31	42
Venezuela	NA	32	42
Average <sup>2</sup>	NA	18	24
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> export values <sup>4</sup>	NA	102	88
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> import values: <sup>4</sup>			
Canada	NA	57	40
Mexico	NA	40	26
Average <sup>2</sup>	NA	51	37

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes other countries not listed.

<sup>3</sup>Because January trade data were not available, January consumption was not determined.

<sup>4</sup>Average value per ton for most recent data available.